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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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<b>COUNTRY</b>	Bulgaria	<b>REPORT</b>	
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

### 1. There are three types of Bulgarian courts:

- a. The Vurkhoven Sud (Supreme Court), located in Sofia, composed of three "Colleges" as follows:
  - (1) Civil;
  - (2) Penal; and
  - (3) Military (Voenna Kolleksiya kum Vurkhoven Sud; Military College attached to the Supreme Court);
- b. The Okruzhen Sud (Okrug Court), which is located in each okrug capital and composed of the following two "Sections":
  - (1) The Civil section; and
  - (2) The Penal section;
- c. The Narodn Sud (People's Court), located in all smaller localities, is composed of a single "section" which is both civil and penal.

### 2. The Supreme Court includes civil and penal "colleges" which are in turn composed of various sections. Serious political crimes, committed by ministers, high political personalities and magistrates, are judged directly by the Supreme Court. This court also reviews, upon appeal, sentences which were originally passed by Okrug Courts. In only four cases can the Supreme Court review sentences passed by one of the various "sections" of which it is composed, that is:

- a. When there has been an obvious misinterpretation of the laws;
- b. When the defendant has been condemned in absentia and has not been allowed the possibility of defending himself;

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- c. When it is apparent that the results of the trial were influenced by the corruption of a member of the judging "colleges" or of a lawyer; and
- d. When the defendant has been determined guilty because of false testimony or the use of false documents.

The defendant has one last possibility in those cases where the sentences have been reviewed by the Supreme Court and upheld; that is, he may forward a request for reprieve to the Presidium.

- 3. The composition of judging colleges, in the case of primary jurisdiction, is of three judges (one president and two members); in the case of appellate jurisdiction it is of three judges (one president and two members) and five counsellors (jurors or people's judges); deputies, who serve as counsellors are appointed by the Chamber of Deputies.
- 4. The Okrug Courts judge directly new cases and review appealed sentences passed by the People's Courts. The College of Judges is composed of one judge (for new cases), and three judges (one president and two members) for appellate cases.
- 5. The People's Courts judge misdemeanors. The defendant judged by People's Courts may appeal only to Okrug Courts. Decisions handed down by the People's Courts and upheld by Okrug Courts become final and may not be appealed to the Supreme Court. When a single individual is on trial, the Judges' College is composed of one judge; when two or more individuals are on trial, the Judges' College is composed of one judge (president) and two people's judges (members). People's judges are chosen among professional men, directors of enterprises, teachers, workers, etc., appointed by the Narodno Suvet (People's Council) and receive a daily fee of from 20 to 30 leva during a trial.
- 6. Military Courts are located in each Military Region center. Defendants judged by Military Courts may appeal to the Military College attached to the Supreme Court.
- 7. Prior to 1949 lawyers in Bulgaria could carry out their profession freely, fix their fees, and accept or turn down a case at their discretion. Following 1949, their activities were coordinated and regulated by specific laws as described below. In each locality which has a court there is a "Yuridicheska Konsultatsiya" (Juridical Council; i.e., Juridical Office) which is formed of all lawyers residing in that area or in smaller villages administratively subordinate to the locality.
- 8. In each okrug center there is an "Advokatski Suvet" (Council of Lawyers) which coordinates and controls the activities of the "Juridical Offices" existing in the area. The "Advokatski Suvet" are subordinate to an "Advokatura Sektsiya" in the Ministry of Justice. Each Juridical Office is administered by a secretary (generally a young lawyer starting out on his career) who is responsible for receiving clients, determining with them which lawyer will defend their case, establishing fees, etc. Fees are fixed by government schedules. The secretary, however, may lower the fee if he finds that the client is in precarious economic conditions. At the end of each month, after having deducted the expenditures of the Juridical Office, the net profit is divided among the lawyers in proportion to the cases they have handled.

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